Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously presented)   A method of managing purchasing contracts between supplier entities for a common carrier and customer entities for the purchase of ticket products, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a ticket purchasing contract between a supplier entity and a customer entity, the purchasing contract being applicable to a plurality of contracted purchasing transactions that effect the purchase, by the customer entity, of a ticket on the common carrier for travel (ticketing transactions), the transaction being effected, at least partially, through a computerized system, said generating step including

defining a plurality of contract terms for the purchasing contract, each contract term being defined by a plurality of term attributes, wherein a contract term defines a purchasing obligation of the customer entity, and

storing a term data set of the term attributes (term attributes data set) associated with each contract term in a computer database;

collecting sets of ticketing transaction data relating to a plurality of historical ticketing transactions;

storing the ticketing transaction data in at least one computer database;

identifying, among the population of stored ticketing transaction data sets, a plurality of the stored sets of transaction ticketing data as relating to a ticketing transaction under the purchasing contract (contract transaction data sets), by comparing the stored ticketing transaction data with term attributes of a contract term;

and

generating a collection of contract transaction data sets by associating the transaction data set of each identified contract transaction with each term data set of a contract term with which the transaction is identified.

2.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of executing a computer program to measure the performance of a contract term, whereby the computer program inputs data from at least one contract transaction data sets associated with the contract term.

3.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of executing a computer program to identify historical ticketing transactions as a contract transaction by selecting at least a portion of the transaction data for a historical ticketing transaction and comparing the selected portion with the term attributes data set for a contract term, whereby the historical ticketing transaction is identified as a contract transaction when the selected portion is identified with the term attributes of the contract term.

4.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 3, wherein the supplier entity and the customer entity have, associated therewith, a plurality of entity attributes, said method further comprising the steps of:

specifying entity data representing each of the entity attributes or a combination thereof; and

including the entity data in each term data set such that the contract transaction data set includes entity data.

5.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 4, wherein the specifying step includes specifying entity data representing an entity attribute from the group of entity attributes consisting of: customer entity organization information, designated customer employee contact information, supplier entity organization information, designated supplier employee contact information, and combinations thereof.

6.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 3, wherein the step of storing a term data set for each contract term includes selecting term attributes from the group of term attributes consisting of: supplier entity identifiers, customer entity identifiers, contract identifiers, contract term identifiers, term performance rules, term discount, term requirements, and combinations thereof.

7.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

for each contract, specifying entity data including supplier entity data designating one or more individuals associated with the contract for the supplier entity, and customer entity data designating individuals associated with the contract for the customer entity; and

associating the entity data with each of the contract terms for the contract such that the contract transaction data sets generated include the entity data.

8.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of generating a collection of contract transaction data sets includes generating a contract transaction data set including a supplier entity identifier, a customer entity identifier, a contract identifier, and a contract term identifier.

9.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 3, wherein the step of collecting transaction data includes,

receiving, at one or more client stations, transaction data relating to a partial purchase transaction, wherein the partial purchase transaction embodies less than a whole portion of a predetermined individualized transaction for a product;

deriving an individualized transaction from at least one partial purchasing transaction, the individualized transactions being associated with an individualized transaction data set; and

storing the transaction data set for the individualized transaction in a computer database.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the contract generating step includes:

collecting historical transaction data sets representing ticketing transactions by the customer entity;

identifying a proposed contract term having a set of term attributes;

identifying historical ticketing transaction data sets applicable to the proposed contract term by comparing contract term attributes with at least a portion of each historical ticketing transaction data set;

qualifying a contract term by, forecasting the performance of the proposed contract term using, as input, at least a portion of each identified historical ticketing transaction data set, and qualifying the proposed contract term based, at least partly, on the forecasted performance;

assigning the contract term to a proposed contract; and

evaluating the proposed contract with a plurality of qualified contract terms.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of collecting historical transaction data includes collecting historical transaction data from a plurality of distinct data sources.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of collecting historical transaction data includes collecting historical transaction data in a plurality of data formats and converting each of the collected transaction data into historical transaction data sets in accordance with a common data format, the common data format being defined by the data collected, the representation of the data, and the arrangement of the data in the data set.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of qualifying a proposed contract term includes designating the proposed contract term as qualified upon determining that the forecasted performance satisfies a predetermined performance criteria.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of storing a plurality of proposed contract terms including a plurality of term performance rules for each proposed term, wherein the step of qualifying a proposed contract term includes comparing the forecasted performance with a term performance rule.

15.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of collecting transaction data includes receiving transaction data in a plurality of data formats and storing the received transaction data in accordance with a common data format, wherein the common data format is defined by the representation and arrangement of data in the data set.

16.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the step of storing received data includes storing data representing transaction attributes from the group of transaction attributes consisting of count of product units, cost of product, product code, customer entity code, supplier entity code including product originator and product distributor, and combinations thereof.

17.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of collecting transaction data includes,

providing an ancillary database containing data representing product attributes of each of a supplier's products, whereby individual transaction for a single product are identifiable with a plurality of product attributes;

receiving, at a client station, parent transaction data relating to a parent purchase transaction, wherein the parent transaction embodies a plurality of individualized transactions;

deriving an individualized transaction from the parent transaction by executing a computer program to compare at least a portion of each parent transaction data with the product attributes stored in the ancillary database;

defining an individualized transaction with each of the identified products, each of the individualized transactions being associated with at least one of the transaction data sets; and

storing each transaction data set for each individualized transaction in a computer database.

18.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of identifying of the contracted transactions includes electronically marking each identified transaction data set with a unique contract term code and an entity code specifying of the supplier entity and the customer entity.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of defining a contract term includes storing an SQL statement that describes each term and wherein the marking step includes generating an SQL statement to match transaction data sets with a contract term.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

generating a transaction database for storing the collected transaction data sets in a common data format;

generating a term database for storing the contract term attributes sets;

generating an entity database for storing data relating to supplier entities and customer entities;

generating an entity contacts database for storing data relating to information on individuals designated to a contract at supplier entities and individuals designated to a contract at customer entities; and

generating a term performance database for storing measured term performance data;

whereby each of the databases are computer databases interconnected to at least one data processing means.

21.   (Previously presented) In a method of managing purchasing contracts between at least one supplier entity for a common carrier and at least one customer entity, wherein the purchasing contract is applicable to ticket purchasing transactions for ticket products effected, at least partially, through a computerized system, a method of generating a ticket purchasing contract, said method comprising the steps of:

collecting transaction data relating to historical ticket purchasing transactions effected by the customer entity;

storing, in at least one database, a set of transaction data for each historical ticket purchasing transaction;

defining a plurality of proposed contract terms that define a ticket purchasing obligation of the customer entity;

defining term attributes associated with each proposed contract term and storing the term attributes as a term data set in a database;

executing a computer program to qualify each proposed contract term, including

selecting the stored term attributes;

identifying each transaction data set that satisfies the selected term attributes;

forecasting a performance result of the proposed contract term using, as input, at least a portion of each transaction data set identified; and

qualifying the proposed contract term if the forecasted result satisfies a predetermined performance criteria; and

assigning a purchasing contract between the supplier entity and the customer entity, the purchasing contract having a plurality of qualified contract terms.

22.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of defining term performance rules for each proposed contract term and storing the performance rules in at least one database, and wherein the step of qualifying the proposed contract term includes comparing the forecasted performance result with performance rules associated with the contract term, whereby the performance rules provide the predetermined criteria.

23.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of collecting transaction data includes receiving transaction data in a plurality of data formats and selecting a predetermined portion of each collected transaction data for the storing step.

24.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 23, wherein the step of storing transaction data sets include storing each of the transaction data sets in accordance with a common data format.

25.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of individualizing each of the collected transaction data, including executing data processing means to convert each transaction data set to individualized transaction data sets, whereby each individualized transaction data set is associated with a single predetermined product.

26.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 25, wherein the step of collecting transaction data sets includes,

providing an ancillary database containing data representing product attributes of each product, whereby individualized transactions for a single product are identifiable with product attributes;

receiving, at a client station, information relating to a parent purchase transaction, wherein the parent transaction embodies a plurality of purchasing transactions; and

deriving individualized transactions from the parent transaction by executing data processing means, including

selecting at least a portion of data collected for the parent transaction,

comparing the selected data with the product attributes stored in the ancillary database to identify products, and

defining an individualized transaction with each of the identified products, each of the individualized transactions being associated with a plurality of the transaction data set.

27.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 21, wherein the step of identifying transaction data sets includes electronically marking each identified transaction data set with a unique code associated with the contract term.

28.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 27, wherein the marking step includes marking the transaction data set with a contract code and an entity code specifying the supplier entity and the customer entity.

29.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the step of defining a contract term includes storing an SQL statement that describes each term and wherein the marking step includes generating an SQL statement to match transaction data sets with a contract term.

30.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of storing transaction data includes creating a common data format characterized by a single line of transaction data, and wherein the transaction data set represent information selected from the group of historical purchasing information consisting of: product description, count, cost, date, time, salesperson, computed share applicable to supplier entity, and combinations thereof.

31 – 39   (Canceled)

40.   (Previously presented)   A method of managing a purchasing contract between a supplier entity for a common carrier and a customer entity, the contract being applicable to ticketing transactions for the purchase of tickets, each of the ticketing transactions being associated with a ticket unit, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a purchasing contract between a supplier entity for a common carrier and a customer entity,

identifying a contract term, the contract term having a plurality of term attributes, and

storing the term attributes associated with each contract term as a term data set in a computer database;

collecting transaction data related to a plurality of historical ticketing transactions from a plurality of data sources;

storing a set of transaction data for each historical ticketing transaction in a computer database and in accordance with a common data format;

executing a computer program to identify historical ticketing transactions as contracted ticketing transactions (under the purchasing contract) by selecting at least a portion of the transaction data set for a transaction and comparing the selected portion with the term data set for a contract term, whereby the transaction is identified as a contracted ticketing transaction upon identifying the selected portion with a portion of the term data set; and

electronically marking each identified transaction data set with a unique code associated with the contract term; and

executing a computer program to measure the performance of the contract term using, as input, at least a portion of the transaction data set for each identified contracted ticketing transaction.

41.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 40, further comprising the steps of:

providing an ancillary database containing data representing product attributes of each ticket unit, whereby individual ticket units are identifiable by product attributes;

receiving, at a client station, information relating to a parent purchase transaction including a transaction data set, wherein the parent transaction embodies a plurality of ticketing transactions; and

deriving individualized ticketing transactions from the parent transaction by executing data processing means, including

selecting at least one of the transaction attributes,

comparing the selected transaction attributes with the product attributes stored in the products database to identify at least one of the ticket units; and

defining an individualized ticketing transaction with each of the identified ticketing units, each of the individualized ticketing transactions being associated with at least portion of the collected transaction data set;

wherein the step of storing transaction data includes storing a transaction data set for each of the individualized ticketing transaction.

42.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 40, further comprising the step of generating a collection of contracted ticketing transaction data sets by associating the transaction data of each identified contracted transaction with each term data set with which the transaction is identified; and

wherein the step of measuring the performance of a contract term includes accessing the contracted transaction data sets, whereby the computer program inputs data from the identified ticketing transaction data sets associated with the contract term.

43.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising the steps of:

storing, in at least one computer database, entity data relating to each of the supplier entity and the customer entity, including entity data representing an entity attribute from the group of entity attributes consisting of: customer entity organization information, designated customer employee contact information, supplier entity organization information, designated supplier employee contact information, and combinations thereof; and

associating the entity data with the transaction data set of each identified contracted ticketing transaction, such that the contracted ticketing transaction data set generated includes entity data.

44.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 43, wherein the step of storing a term data set for each contract term includes selecting term attributes from the group of term attributes consisting of: supplier entity identifiers, a customer entity identifier, contract identifiers, contract term identifiers, term performance rules, term discount, term requirements, and combinations thereof; and

storing data representing the selected term attributes in the term data set.

45.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the step of storing transaction data includes storing at least data representing attributes from the group of transaction attributes consisting of: count of product units, cost of product, product code, customer entity code, supplier entity code including product originator and product distributor, and combinations thereof.

46 – 51.   (Canceled)

52.   (Previously presented)   A computerized system for use in managing a purchasing contract for tickets for travel, between a supplier entity for a common carrier and a customer entity, the contract covering a plurality of contracted ticketing transactions effected, at least partially, through a computerized system, said system comprising:

a plurality of data storage systems storing (i) entity data specific to the supplier entity and entity data specific to the customer entity, (ii) multiple sets of term data, each set representing attributes of a contract term, including a term code, a contract code, and term definitions for identifying transaction data sets applicable to the contract term, and (iii) a plurality of transaction data sets, each set being identified with a contracted ticketing transaction

wherein a contract term is defined by term attributes and defines a purchasing obligation of the customer entity for tickets for travel and a contracted ticketing transaction is a transaction effecting a purchase, by the customer entity, of a ticket for travel on the common carrier under the purchasing contract;

a plurality of client stations for receiving transaction data sets, each data set relating to a purchasing transaction; and

a plurality of data processing systems communicable with said client stations and with said data storage systems, said data processing systems being configured

to store each of said transaction data sets in said data storage systems; and

for each contract term, to compare at least a portion of said term data set with at least a portion of said transaction data sets so as to identify transaction data sets applicable to the contract term; and

associating each of said identified transaction data sets with of said entity data and term data to generate a collection of contract transaction data sets.

53.   (Previously presented)   The system of claim 52, wherein said data processing system is configured to store each transaction data set in a common data format.

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54.   (Previously presented)   The system of claim 52, further comprising data processing systems intercoupled with at least one of said data storage systems so as to be accessible with the contracted transaction data set,

wherein said contracted transaction data sets are stored in said at least one of said data storage systems.